WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
RECEIVED

5 AUG 1965

COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR 1964

#### Councillors:

Chairman		Councillor	F. Knight, J.P.
Vice-Chair	man		F. Edwards,
			B.E.M., J.P.
Councillor	H. J. Reed.	Councillor	A. Barton.
,,	B. Edwards.	,,	J. Strange.
,,	O. Thorne.	,,	W. C. H. Ford.
, ,	B. J. Lewis.	, ,	R. J. Robson.
,,	W. H. Davies.	.,	Ellis H. Williams.
**	F. Matthews.	, ,	B. Evans.
**	H. B. Connally.	,,	A. P. Griffiths.
,,	J. C. Pearce.	,,	L. S. Gulliford.
		ficers:	
	Solicitor		- N. C. Bizley.
l reasurer	& Chief Financial	Officer	- T. H. Dixon.
Medical O	fficer of Health	]	Dr. H. V. M. Jones.
Engineer	& Surveyor -	-	- M. T. Benjamin
		-	- Lloyd G. Hale.
Hansin - E	and the second s		

The Newport Printing Co., Ltd., 12, Baneswell Road, Newport, Mon.

- P. E. Davies.

Housing Engineer -



Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Abercarn, Mon.
1964.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have once again the pleasure of submitting the Annual Report for the year ending December, 1964.

During the year births exceeded deaths by some 105. Births totalled 314 while deaths were 209.

Cancer deaths were 37 in all its forms. Carcinoma of the lung numbered ten of this total.

Bronchitis deaths numbered 18, while coronary disease totalled 39, a further 42 persons died of other diseases associated with the heart. These figures are almost the same in terms of percentages, approximately 33% of all deaths, as in the year 1963.

As disheartening as these figures well may be, the tremendous research and quite startling progress made in heart surgery will undoubtedly result in this cause of death being dramatically reduced in the next decade or so.

Major heart surgery is often a race against time. As the lowering of the body temperature takes place, by a system of freezing the patient, major surgery can take place over days rather than limited time, the fitting of plastic valves to the heart, while in its infancy has already proved of immense value. It is not wishful thinking to believe that dramatic falls in the death rate can be expected in the next ten years.

The total of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year year totalled 464, of these 444 were Measles. Thirteen were Whooping Cough, while 13 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified.

The summary of Tuberculosis Cases remaining on the Register is set out for your information in the report.

In order that the Council may assess population drifts over the last decade or so, tables are set out in the report for your information.

Area of Abercarn Urban District Council	9,543 acres
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate	19,400
Inhabited Houses	5,852
Number of Houses owned by the Council	1,744
Rateable Vale Ist April, 1963	£353,579
1st April, 1964	£359,417
1st April, 1965	£364,618
Product of Penny Rate 1962/3	£511/0/0
1963/4	£1,415/0/0
1964/5	£1,410/0/0
	(Est.).

#### VITAL STATISTICS. Births. Males Females Birth Rate of 1,000 of the Population ... 16.19 Stillbirths. Stillbirth rate of 1,000 of the Population .61 .55 .412 DEATHS. Males Females

#### "I think I am a prophet, new inspired."

			1964
Live Births			314
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			16.19
Still-births			.8
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still	births		16.5
Infant Deaths			9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live birth	s—tota	l	25.48
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live bir	ths—		
legitimate	• • •		29.22
Neo Natal (first four weeks)			5
Death rate per 1,000 population	•••		10.77

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

#### Number of Deaths under One Year:

			1962	1963	1964
Boys			 3	8	6
Girls			 2	5	3
			5	13	9
Infantile	Mortality	Rate			25.48

### CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

			0 to 1 week.		weeks to one year.
ALL CAUSES			 . 4	1	4
Measles			 		
Diphtheria			 		
Whooping Coug	gh		 		
Influenza		•••	 	_	
Cerebral Spinal	Fever		 		
Cancer (Maligna	ant Dise	ease)	 		
Syphilis			 		
Tuberculosis		•••	 		
Bronchitis	•••	•••	 		
Pneumonia (All	forms)		 		2
Other Respirato			 1		
Diarrhoea		•••	 	_	

"And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear, Millions of mischiefs".

J. Caesar.

Congenital Debility	• • •				2
Premature Births			- 1		
Digestive Diseases					
Violence					
Other Causes		• • •	2	1	
		-			
			4	1	4

PIRAT	ORY	DISEAS	SESDE	ATHS.
		1962	1963	1964
		24	23	18
		5	9	9
			4	4
		29	36	31
	 	 	24 5 —	24 23 5 9 — 4

	CILIT		D 21. E 4 E 4 E		
			1962	1963	1964
Males			10	23	23
Females	•••	• • •	4	13	14
			14	36	37

#### Infectious Diseases.

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Opthalmia Neonatorum and Continued Fever.

There were no deaths from the Principal Notifiable Diseases during 1964.

# "If music be the food of love, play on." Shakespeare.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1964.

19	63		196	54
M.	F.		M.	F.
138	116	ALL CAUSES	116	93
		Tuberculosis—Respiratory System	1	2
		Tuberculosis—Other	_	
		Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	3
		Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	1
		Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	_	3
		Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		- 1
		Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	s 12	5
		Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	Ī	1
		Diabetes	2	1
		Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	14
		Coronary Disease, Angina	27	12
		Hypertension with Heart Disease	4	4
		Other Heart Disease	12	22
		Other Circulatory Disease	3	4
		Influenza	_	2
		Pneumonia	6	3
		Bronchitis	13	5
		Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	_
		Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	_	_
		Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea		_
		Nephritis and Nephrosis	_	2
		Hyperplasia of Prostrate	2	
		Congenital Malformations	2	T.
		Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	7	5
		Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	
		All Other Accidents	2	2

### ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Diseases.	Under 1	1—2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10—15	15-20	20—35	35—45	45—65	snld 29	Total
Scarlet Fever Diphtheria	_	=	=	=		1	=	=	=	=	_	=	1
Measles	21	42	59	53	532	208	8	-	—	_		—	444
Erpsipelas Whooping					_	_		_	_	_		_	_
Cough Puerperal	2	4	- 1	2	1	3	_	_	_	_	_		13
Pyrexia	—		—	_	+	_	_	_	_	—	_		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	_	_	_	_	_		_	_		_	_	_	_
Dysentery Pneumonia	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		$\frac{}{2}$	_	<del>_</del> 2	_	<u></u>
Total	23	46	61	55	54	<u>'</u> 213			2	$\equiv$	2		464
T		10			J 7 /						1.6		101

Total Number of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups: 464.

### NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

		1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet Fever		_	1	3	1
Dysentery		2	_	i	
Diphtheria		<del></del>			
Cerebral Spinal Fever	• • •		_		
Pneumonia				2	6
Poliomyelitis		1	_		
Meningitis				_	1
Tuberculosis		12	13	3	7
Whooping Cough	0	2	_	_	13
Erysipelas		_		_	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			_	_	_
Puerperal Pyrexia		_	_	_	_
Food Poisoning		6	_	_	1
Paratyphoid Fever		_	<del>-</del>	<del></del>	
Measles		469	5	45	444
		492	19	54	473

<sup>&</sup>quot;Let not ambition, mock their youthful toil." (Grey's Elergy).

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This service continues to be carried out by the County Council.

There were no reported cases of Diphtheria during the year 1964. If such cases are notified, isolation facilities exist at Bedwellty and Allt-yr-yn Hospitals.

Children under five years of age are innoculated by Assistant Medical Officers from the County Council's Public Health Department at the District Clinics. School children by the Area Medical Officer at the Schools.

#### Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation:—

	Age at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection as regards B).							
	Under 1 yr.	1-4 yrs.	6-14 yrs.	Total.				
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents during the complete year ended 31st December, 1964).	97	190	28	315				
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e., subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the complete year ended 31st December, 1964).	. 1	166	33	200				

#### Vaccination-Smallpox.

Vaccination for the year totalled ... 58.

The following table is submitted for your information:-

## (1) Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during the period.

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1—2	2—4	5—14		Total
Number vaccinated Number	—	25	15	1	8	49
re-vaccinated	_	6			3	9

## (2) Number of Cases Specially Reported during Period (Age Groups as above).

- (a) Generalised
  Vaccinia — — —
- (b) Post-vaccinal
  Encephalomyelitis — — —
- (c) Death from complications of vaccination other than (a) or (b)

#### Immunisation—Whooping Cough.

Immunisation for the year totalled ... 316

The following table is submitted for your information:-

Age at Date of Immunisation.	Under 1	1-2	2—4	5—14	15 or Over	Total
Number of Children who have completed a prima course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended 31st December, 1964.		149	43	27	Nil	316

#### AN AGEING POPULATION IN A MODERN SOCIETY.

#### Drift of Population.

I feel I cannot let this opportunity go by unless some comment is made in regard to the drift of the population from the valleys to the towns. Undoubtedly, now that Llanwern is fully developed, together with other subsidiary industries, this tendency to leave the valleys may well quicken. The Council will find cold comfort in the fact, that in their administrative area, the process of leaving the area is somewhat slower, than in adjacent areas.

Indeed, from the census of 1951 to the 1961 census, the Abercarn Area was one of only four authorities in Monmouthshire that gained in population during the ten years under review. Undoubtedly, the flow of persons leaving the Urban Area was arrested by the Council building One-hundred and Thirty houses for miners, who worked within but lived outside the area. An estimated 450 persons were therefore brought in.

One must have in mind that from 1950 to 1964, there was a known net gain of some 1,570 births over deaths. Making a total gain of some 2,020 persons. Yet the census figure and subsequent Registrar-General's estimate of population figures show a gain of only 720 persons.

The Authority are to be congratulated on their enterprise in allowing private firms to develop the Homeleigh site, where I understand 63 housing units are to be constructed. While possibly a large integrated scheme of development may come about at Croespenmaen, and to a lesser extent at the Rhiw, Crumlin. These by no means small schemes, will arrest the drift of the population, will enrich the Council, and enable people to live in reasonable quietude within easy reach of their place of employment.

The under-mentioned tables are set out for your information showing population trends over the last decade or so:—

				Migration
	Births	Deaths	Population	Figures
	Known	Known	Estimated	Estimated
1950	 320	213	18,680	_
1951	 280	218	18,610	134
1952	 322	176	18,630	126
1953	 291	196	18,460	265
1954	 302	212	18,460	90
1955	 313	224	18,490	89
1956	 334	200	18,570	54
1957	 355	227	18,590	108
1958	 313	227	18,620	66
1959	 324	212	18,610	122
1960	 341	174	18,800	167
1961	 374	201	19,180	173
1962	 304	201	19,400	103
1963	 332	254	19,400	78

#### INFANT WELFARE CENTRE ATTENDANCES.

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres for the year 1964 are set out in the following table for your information:—

Cwmcarn Abercarn Newbridge	•••		42 35	35	98
			35	2.4	pr 4
Newbridge				24	54
		• • •	86	104	153
Pantside	• • •		31	49	36
Hafodyrynys			54	40	35
Trinant		• • •	52	45	62
		_			
			300	297	438
		-			
			Over 1	Over 2	
Centre.		Under	l Under 2	Under 5	Total
Cwmcarn		599	597	501	1,697
Abercarn		348	438	296	1,082
Newbridge		830	647	538	2,015
Pantside		197	300	250	747
		454	335	220	1,009
Hafodyrynys					
Hafodyrynys Trinant		527	395	385	1,307
		527	395	385	1,307
Cwmcarn Abercarn Newbridge Pantside		599 348 830 197	597 438 647 300	501 296 538 250 220	1,697 1,082 2,015 747 1,009

Attendances at the Cwmcarn Centre	1,697
Attendances at the Abercarn Centre	1,082
Attendances at the Newbridge Centre	2,015
Attendances at the Pantside Centre	747
Attendances at the Hafodyrynys Centre	1,009
Attendances at the Trinant Centre	1,307
Total Attendances for the year 1964	7,857

The aforementioned tables of attendance in the Infant Welfare Centres show an increase over 1963 of some 467 children.

The construction of a modern clinic in Trinant, will I am sure prove a much needed fillip.

#### SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES.

					1	Non-	
			Pulm	onary	Pulm	onary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	Total
Total Cases	on Regis	ter					
31-12-63			85	81	15	15	196
New Cases,	1964		3	2		2	7
Deaths			- 1	2			3
Recovered			3	- 1			4
Removed fo	r other						•
Reasons				- 1			1
Removed fro	om						'
District				1			1
Total Cases	on Regist	er					
31-12-64			84	78	15	17	194
						17	174

Annual Return of Food Poisoning Out-Breaks in the Ares of the Abercarn Urban District Council for the year 1st January, 1964, to 31st December, 1964.

In accordance with the Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo. 188/MED. (Appendix I) are submitted herewith.

Local Authority Abercarr	n Urban District Council, ye	i <b>ted</b> ) ar le
January, 1964, to 31st Dece	ember, 1964.	
* *-*	ication Corrected Return to 3rd Qtr. 4th Qtr. Tota Nil I	
(3rd) Outbreaks due to ider Total Outbreaks N	ntified Agents. Nil Total Cases Nil	
(3rd A) Outbreak due to Sala	monella Organisms Nil	
(4th) Outbreaks of Undisco		
Total Outbreaks	Total Cases	
(5th) Outbreaks.		
Single Cases Agent Identified	I Nil	
	1	
The single outbreak of F	ood Poisoning involving on	e per

st

The single outbreak of Food Poisoning involving one person was probably a case of Food Poisoning, inasmuch as the patient was sent to Isolation Hospital for a period of eight days, although no bacteriological confirmation was obtained.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. H. V. M. Jones, M.B. (Lon.), D.P.H.(Liv.).

Public Health Inspector:

Lloyd G. Hale, M.P.H.I.A., F.R.S.H.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

These services are maintained by the County Council at Cwmcarn, Abercarn, Newbridge, Pantside, Hafodyrynys and Trinant.

#### Isolation Hospitals.

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Bedwellty Isolation Hospital, Aberbargoed, and Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

#### Immunisation against Diphtheria.

It is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service. This duty is performed by their Area Medical Officers.

#### Ambulance Service.

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administers the Ambulance Service.

Bacteriological Examination of Pathological Specimens.

Samples of Milk, Ice-cream, Water and samples from the Council's Swimming Baths were submitted to the Laboratory at the County Hall for examination during the year.

#### Water Supplies.

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Abertillery and District Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Grwyne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Black Mountains, Breconshire, subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and large supplementary quantities were obtained from Llanover Scheme. The water is sampled by the Board and from time to time by the Local Authority (who submitted samples for bacteriological examination). Where necessary the supplies were chlorinated by the Board's Officials.

Number of houses with piped supply	5,840
Number of houses supplied from wells and	
springs (estimated)	12
Approximate population supplied from	
Public Water Mains, direct to Houses	19,352

During the year inspections were made of water Supplies and systems generally, where the pressure was reported to be low. Upon inspection it was found that in almost all cases the corrosion of pipes was responsible for inadequate supplies for all domestic purposes. In such cases, Informal Notices and where necessary Statutory Notices under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945, were served with complete success.

#### Sewers and Drains.

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

#### Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour twice weekly. The tip is situated at Fields Park Road, Newbridge, and another at the northern end of the District at Trinant.

#### Refuse Disposal.

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and extensive treatments for the elimination of rodents and flies are continually being undertaken.

### Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies, Milk and Ice-Cream.

A total of Thirty-Nine were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

Twenty milk, Eight water and Eleven ice-cream.

The milk samples were purchased off vendors in the course of delivery to the consumers. At school canteens and factory canteens. The water samples were taken from land springs, such as are at the Colliery Road, Cwmcarn, and near Pennar Villa, New Bethel.

The Council's swimming baths and certain water supply taps in factories and schools in the Area. All samples submitted proved to be satisfactory.

All the Ice-Cream samples were placed in the Grade I category.

Rainfall.

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

month wife		6			
Month		Total Inches Rainfall	Greatest fall in Day	24 Hrs. Inches	No. of days of Recorded Rainfall
January		1.05	30th	0.50	4
February		2.25	26th	0.36	10
March		3.20	13th	1.75	4
April		4.50	15th	1.35	10
May		2.17	6th	0.47	10
June		2.15	lst	0.95	7
July		2.20	13th	1.25	4
August		2.30	24th	0.75	6
September		1.0	12th	0.35	4
October		4.90	5th & 13th	1.20	10
November		3.83	15th	1.05	- 11
December	• • •	6.85	28th	1.50	12
Total		36.40	13th	1.75	92

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery. Height above Sea Level: 539.9 feet.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT. Housing.

In the year under review no Council Houses were built. Twenty Old Age Pensioners or Senior Citizens Houses were under construction and almost completed as the year ended. Additionally, the Council has tendered out for some Two-Hundred housing units, to be built at Pantside, Newbridge.

These housing units to replace others fit for demolition, to rehouse applicants on the general needs list and possibly to rehouse miners near their place of work, who at the present, reside outside the Area.

Twenty-Nine private houses and bungalows were built in 1964. While Sixty-Three housing units are to be built on the Homeleigh Estate. A further thousand units may be constructed at Croespenmaen. While the Rhiw Farm Estate, is also to be developed for housing purposes.

#### Improvement Grants.

A busy but disappointing return. Some Fifty-Nine applications were dealt with.

- 38 Discretionary Grants.
- 21 Standard Grants.

Inspections were made in every case, to ascertain the structural condition. Where necessary, notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957, were served. After completion of the repairs and the installation of modern amenities the standard of all these houses were first class.

It is pleasing to record that the Council have raised the ceiling figure available for grants to some Twelve-Thousand pounds for the year 1965. It is to be hoped that all of this money will be taken up, thus having a total of over Twenty-Four thousand pounds spent by the Authority and Applicants on modernisation schemes.

Under the Housing Act, 1964, the Council have powers to declare areas, Improvement Areas. The suggested area for improvement should number 30 houses, half of which must be brought up to the full standard, that is to say Discretionary Standard. The other half to be modernised up to Standard Grant level and can reach the upper limit of £350, providing the increased £40 is spent on supplying hot water to an existing sink. Or, a lower reduced minimum standard of hot water to an existing sink, a readily accessible water closet, access must be under cover, or food store.

It is anticipated that such an area will be shortly registered by the Council for improvement and that other schemes may well follow.

#### General Inspections.

As can be seen from the tables of inspections set out for your information, the year under review proved to be the busiest year ever. Council house inspections were stepped up, more inspections were made under the Housing Acts 1957, and 1964, where Improvement Grants were applied for. Five-hundred and Forty-six inspections were made in Offices, Shops and Railway Premises during the year. Ninety-two visits were made to all food shops and butchers shops, in order to detain or prevent the sale of suspected corned beef and tinned tongue during the Typhoid epidemic in Aberdeen.

In addition over One-thousand other complaints were dealt with and are set out below:—

Exterior.	1964
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	38
Roofs repaired or renewed	43
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters renewed or	
repaired	31
Walls-rebuilt or repaired	9
rendered for the prevention of dampness	29
external plastering repaired	1
damp proof courses inserted	
Outbuildings repaired	3
Obstructive outbuildings demolished	3
Yards, passages, etc., paved or repaired	12
Interior.	
Doors and frames renewed or repaired	43
Floors renewed or repaired	22
Floors ventilated	
Grates or ovens renewed or repaired	15
Internal plastering (walls) repaired or	17
replastered	45
Internal plastering (ceilings) repaired or	
replastered	30
Larders provided	
Larders improved or repaired	1
Staircases repaired	6
Windows and frames renewed or repaired	100
Window cords renewed	36

Drain	age.						
	New drains cons	tructed					9
	Drains cleansed						342
	Drains reconstru	cted					14
	Drains repaired		• •				10
	Drains tested—V						18
		Smoke					
		Chemica	d				72
	Gullies fixed				• • •		8
	Inspection chamb	oers pro	vided	or rep	aired		6
	Intercepting traps			_			_
	Lavatory basins repaired						4
	Rainwater pipes			from	lraina	•••	6
						٠	
	Soil pipes or ven Waste water sink						4
		o mapp	01 (	acto p	.pcc -cp		
	r Closets.						
	Water closet bui	_	-		•••	• • •	7
	Seats ,doors ren	ewed or	repai	red	•••	• • •	5
	Water closets re-	construc	ted			• • •	
	New W.C. pans a	and trap	s fixed	• • •			
1	Flushing apparati	us provi	ded i		• • •	• • •	
	Flushing apparat	us repai	red	•••	•••	•••	3
Misce	llaneous Repairs	and No	uisance	s Aba	ted.		
	Storage accommo					d	į
	Water supply pr						2
	Water taps or pi		aired				14
	Other repairs an				•••		61
						-	. 0.5
	·	Total	•••	•••	•••	• • • •	1,054
Hous		11:n_ U.		nenecte	ad		847
	Number of Dwe					•••	. 710
	Re-inspected	· · · ·	 .h:ah w	···	and imp	rove-	, , , ,
	Number of prem				and imp	1016	59
	ments have be		ea out	•••	•••	• • •	164
	Warning Notices		•••	•••	•••	• • • •	164
	Remedied withou			•••	•••	•••	129
	Statutory Notices	served			• • •	• • •	127

Statutory Notices complied with	129
Statutory Notices not complied with	Nil
rumber of riouses are the	5,852
Number of Dwelling Houses erected during the	NIT
year by the Council	Nil
Number of New Houses erected privately in the	20
year 1964	29
Drainage.	
Drainage stoppages dealt with, New drainage con-	
nections, improvements and repairs	399
The following statement is in the form prescribed b	v the
Ministry:—	
1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected	
during the year for housing defects (under	
Public Health and Housing Acts	694
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	768
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	, 00
(2) (a) Demolition Orders made	9
(b) Closing Orders made	.1
(3) Undertakings accepted not to re-let for human	
habitation	Nil
(4) Closing Orders revoked after premises have	
harm made Ca	Nil
been made it	1/11
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service	
of Formal Notices	112
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for	
occupation in consequence of informal action	
by the Local Authority or their Officers	112
3 Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the	
Housing Act, 1957	47
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of	
which notices were served requiring repair	82

(-)	rendered fit after service of Formal Notice	81
	(a) By Owners	81
	(b) By Local Authority in default of	N I · I
	Owners	Nil
	Number of Houses under Circular 2845	Nil
(b)	(1) Number of dwelling houses in re-	
	spect of which notices were served requiring repair	82
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which	0.1
	were rendered fit	81
	(a) By Owners	81
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957: —	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demo- lished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
(d)	Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of	
	which Closing Orders were deter- mined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil
I. Hou	sing Act, 1957—Part IV. Overcrowding.	
(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at	
, ,	the end of the year	71
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	83
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	332
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1

dwelling he

Numbe

"Oh, that we now had here, but one ten thousand of those men in England; that do no work to-day". Henry V.

## Public Health Inspector Students. Training Facilities.

Over the years I have noted with serious concern the dearth of students into the Public Health Departments in all Local Authorities in England and Wales. Local Authorities of all sizes are seriously understaffed, the London Boroughs are some 70 inspectors under strength. Bristol 17, while Manchester and Birmingham are also below establishment level.

It is estimated that some 250 to 300 Inspectors are required annually to take the place of retirements and other losses incurred in any one year.

The growth of new towns, the extending boundaries of existing Authorities. The raising of standards through new legislation, increased inspections until today it is rare to find any business, factory or office that escapes periodic inspections by Public Health Inspectors. The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, is an example of what I have in mind.

While demolition work, inspections where applications are received for Improvement Grants, usually fall within the Public Health Inspectors sphere of activities. Compulsory meat inspection is the order of the day.

The disappointingly small number of students sitting the examinations next year can only be looked at with the gravest possible alarm. It well may be that in attempting to enhance the "status" of the Public Health Inspector, interested students fights shy of a two day per week 4 year course before qualifying as a Public Health Inspector.

That famous phrase "You never had it so good," has little appeal to the student in the Public Health Department of today. He sees life as a succession of 4 years of "hard days nights".

Students in any Health Department are an invaluable asset. May I mention that without such assistance, the survey of every business premise in the Area would not have been completed by the end of July, especially when only approximately twenty persons applied for registration under the Act.

The value of the student was felt in the stepping up of the inspections of Council Houses in the Area, also in the examination of 6 lb. tins of corned beef, during the Aberdeen outbreak, for the detection and detention of any suspected tins.

The Council can see from all the inspections and visits made that 1964 was easily the busiest year, when a total of over Two-Thousand visits were made, to houses, shops, offices and Railway premises.

#### Meat and Other Foods.

A large quantity of tinned and other foods were inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

6 lbs. Apples.

6 tins Apricots.

121 lbs. Bacon.

121 tins Beans.

42 lbs. Beans.

70 lbs. Beef.

173 Pkts. Biscuits.

1 lb. Bread Pudding.

8 tins Broad Beans.

18 lbs. Butter.

11 lbs. Cheese.

3 Slabs Chocolate.

38 tins Chopped Ham.

4 lbs. Chopped Ham.

11 tins Chopped Pork.

386½ lbs. Cooked Ham.

75 tins Corned Beef.

56 lbs. Corned Beef.

12 lbs. Jellied Veal.

76 tins Luncheon Meat.

4 lbs. Luncheon Meat.

60 tins Milk.

10 tins Oranges.

57 tins Peaches.

29 tins Pears.

98 tins Peas.

28 lbs. Peas.

25 Pies.

6 tins Pilchards.

16 tins Plums.

5 tins Pork.

5 tins Sardines.

29 lbs. Sausage.

 $10\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Sausage Meat.

53 Pkts. Soup.

1 tin Steak.

- 4 tins Cream.
- 2 tins Creamed Rice.
- 11 Pkts. Egg Rusk.
- 82 lbs. Fish.
- 37 tins Fruit Salad.
  - 7 tins Grapefruit.
  - 5 tins Hamburgers.

- 4 tins Steak Pudding.
- 56 tins Stewed Steak.
- 22 tins Strawberries.
- 20 lbs. Sweets.
- 158 tins Tomatoes.
  - 4 tins Tongue.

#### SHOPS ACT LEGISLATION.

The law governing shops can be traced back to the early 1860's. However the first main Act, was that of 1912, to be followed by the Act of 1928, which dealt with evening closing hours.

The control of hours of working of young persons and the health and welfare provisions for all shop assistants came in 1934. Further legislation in 1936 restricting Sunday trading came into being.

Following the second World War, in order to keep in step with post war changes the Shops Act 1950, reached the Statute Book.

Thus, fifteen years has gone by, fifteen years for habits to change. Fifteen years of interpretation of various sections of the Shops Act. Previous decision in law, has been changed in the Courts of Appeal. The Brighton Corporation v Fine Fare and the Aberdare v Fine Fare judgements has made the closing hours section of the 1950 Act a joke amongst the owners of the big multiple stores.

Now the government has promised a new Shops Act. Probably with varying closing days of the week. Also longer hours of opening can be anticipated. This could cause concern to the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers. However, it may well be that shop assistants, may only work some 5 days per week taking two whole days as compensatory time off in lieu of larger anticipated working hours in the new proposed Shops Act.

The view has been expressed that eight o'clock in the evening should be quite late enough to meet the ordinary requirements of shoppers. Whatever viewpoints are now held, it is certain that the new proposed Shops Act will not be more difficult to operate than the present Shops Act 1950.

The safety and welfare provisions are already catered for in the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. While the hygiene provisions are taken care of under the Food and Drugs Acts, of 1955 and 1960.

In conclusion, what the legislators and the man in the field require is a common sense Shops Act dealing with hours of operation, and early closing days.

Perhaps looking into the year 2005, after all, only forty years on, we may find that the Supermarket which now reigns supreme and prides themselves in keeping their costs to a minimum, may well be beaten by costs, soaring overheads, such as a short working week for the staff. Although the shop may stop open longer in terms of hours per week, necessitating extra staff to perform almost the same service to the customer.

Increased rates, as more and more commodities are sold, shop or display space may well increase until the very idea of supermarkets are killed.

Shopping forty years hence may well be done by local firms advertising their goods on the local television screens, and the customers calling at a requirement depot, leaving their list of foodstuffs to be delivered to their homes. Or, ordering of the weekly supply of foodstuffs may be done by telephone after checking the catalogue provided by the firm.

Thus display space or shops, staff, pilfering and many other anxieties would be done away with, by courage, by breaking with existing convention. Only warehouse space would be necessary and a delivery services both of which are already in being.

I wonder who, where and when, will be the first to attempt the idea.

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

In the nine years that has elapsed since the coming into operation of the above mentioned Act, it is true that the Council have done little to implement the provisions contained therein.

For example no "Smoke Controlled Areas" have been declared. Yet, great changes have taken place during this time. For instance, all Industries were informed that after 1963 their powers of exemption under the Act would have elapsed.

I am informed that since 1956 up to 1963, there has been a reduction in coal burning consumption of some 30,000 tons per annum. Whereas the annual rate of coal consumption used industrially in 1956 was 50,000 tons, this has now been reduced to some 20,000 tons in 1963. A further reduction has taken place since that time (although exact figures are unobtainable for the last two years), by the electrification of the Colliery Pitheads in the Urban Area and the Richard Thomas and Baldwins works at Abercarn.

Domestically, changes are also taking place, less and less coal is being consumed. Central heating units are becoming the order of the day. Gas, oil and electric heating methods are being used.

In very many other instances the personnel engaged in the mines are not taking up their full entitlement of coal, new modern grates that burn coal cannot burn coal at the old previous rate of consumption.

In conclusion, the Authority have 1,744 housing units all of which could be readily converted with little cost to burn low volatile coals, coke or anthracite coals, as the case may be.

All this is to the good, why "Bechgyn Boy" the air is like wine.

# THE SHOPS, OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

At long last this Act was placed on the Statute Book, which meant that the Local Authority's donkey was on the run once again. It has been stated that some 8,000,000 persons will benefit, when the regulations laid down in the Act become fully effective.

After all this Act is only tying up, superimposing many old pieces of legislation, contained in previous Factories and Shops Acts and the Food and Drugs Act 1955.

Complete registration was called for, for all premises such as:—

- (a) Offices.
- (b) Shops (Retail).
- (c) Wholesale Departments or Warehouses.
- (d) Catering Establishments open to the public.
- (e) Staff Canteens.
- (f) Fuel Storage Depots.

All family businesses being exempted.

Undoubtedly, the welfare and safety provisions together with the overcrowding standard can only lead to a vast environmental improvement.

The day of the basement sweat shop is at least over. The cold nissen hutted annexes, which sprang up after the war, with its numbing winter cold, must now only employ such persons at 40 square feet per person, and must be heated to a temperature of at least 60.8°F.

A survey of all the business premises was undertaken in May, June and July, 1964. Each premise was inspected and all those were registered that came within the Act. Five-Hundred and Forty-Six visits were made.

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1964.

	Type of Property. Non-Agricultural.					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.	All other (in- cluding Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3).	Agricul- tural	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	4	5,862	188	6,054	42	
II. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification Number of such properties found to be infested by:—	2	376	19	397	1	
Common Rat: Major Minor Ship Rat: Major Minor House Mouse: Major Minor	1 1 — —	164 —	- 4 - 1 15	1 169 — 1 86	- - -	
III. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act Number of such properties found to be infested	4	342	94	440	17	
by:— Common Rat: Major Minor Ship Rat: Major Minor House Mouse: Major Minor	1 - - - 9	203 — — — 62	20 — 1 15	1 224 — 1 86		
IV. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose	I	24	_	25	_	

Type of Property.

		Type of Property.  Non-Agricultural			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) (5)	
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses including Council Houses	All Other Including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) and (3) Agricultural	
Number of such properties found to be infested by:—  Common Rat: Major					
Minor Ship Rat: Major	1	24	_	25 — — —	
Minor House Mouse: Major Minor		=	_		
V. Total inspections carried out, including reinspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available.)		Figures 1	oot availab	le.	
VI. Number of infested properties (in sections II, III and IV) treated by the L.A VII. Total treatments	11	250	56	317	
carried out — including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available).		Pigures n	ot availab	le.	
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
(a) Treatment (b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing	_	_	_		
IX. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	_	_			
		20			

	Type of Property.  Non Agricultural					
	(1)	(2) (3)		(4)	(5)	
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses.	All other (in- cluding Business Premises).	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (8).	Agricul- ural,	
X. Legal Proceedings (See, XII, below)				_		
XI. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out						

XII. Where legal proceedings have been instituted by the Local Authority brief particulars should be given here:—

NONE

XIII. Any other points of interest.

NONE

Two sewer treatments were carried out in February/March and Sepember/October, 1964. The following are the figures:

		No. of Manholes		Bait Taken Poison		
		Treated	Pre-bait	Small	Good	Total
February/March		382	72	35	51	158
	•••	376	61	29	58	148

All individual complaints during the year were dealt with, which entailed several visits by the Rodent Operator to one single reported case.

#### Factories and Workshops.

Total number of factories in the Area ... 8
Total number of workshops in the Area... 22

The factories and workshops are periodically inspected in order that they comply with the Factories Act, 1937.

#### Number of Defects.

Referred No. of to H.M. Prose-

Particulars	F	ound	Remedie	Inspector	cutions			
Want of Cleanliness		2	2					
Want of Ventilation				_				
Want of Drainage of F	loors	- 1	1	_	_			
Sanitary Accommodation:								
Other Nuisances	• • •			_	_			
Insufficient	• • •				_			
Unsuitable or Defective	• • •	3	3					
Not separate for sexes	• • •	1	1	_	_			
		7	7					

#### Licensed Slaughtermen.

Several applications were received and granted by the Council during the year.

H. V. M. JONES, M.B. (London), D.P.H. (Liverpool), Medical Officer of Health.

LLOYD G. HALE, M.P.H.I.A., F.R.S.H.,

Public Health Inspector





